

NEWS

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More Information? Call the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 26, 2006

Fort Dix Corrections Officer and Inmate Admit
Smuggling Contraband for Resale to Inmates

(More)

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NEWARK – A former Fort Dix corrections officer and inmate pleaded guilty today to conspiring to smuggle and sell cellular telephones and tobacco products at the federal prison at Fort Dix, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Timberly Gamache, 35, of Pemberton Township in Burlington County, admitted that she agreed with inmate Hassan Thomas that she would smuggle contraband, including tobacco and cell phones, into the Federal Correctional Institution at Fort Dix.

Gamache and Thomas both admitted before U.S. District Judge Joseph A. Greenaway, Jr., that Thomas paid Gamache to smuggle the goods into the prison.

Under the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, Gamache faces a probable sentencing range of between 12 months and 18 months. Thomas, already serving a sentence for a drug conviction out of New York, faces a likely range of between 10 months and 16 months. Judge Greenaway has wide discretion in sentencing and can impose a sentence within the range or above or below the range. The judge scheduled sentencing for Feb. 22.

Gamache was arrested on July 26 at her home in Pemberton Township, Burlington County, on a criminal Complaint by Special Agents of the Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General. Hassan Thomas, 31, had a federal detainer lodged against him on the charges at the time.

Gamache, who was fired on May 18, specifically admitted today that her husband went to a Western Union in Browns Mills on May 11, 2006 to pick up a payment of \$1,483. Gamache said she knew the money had been wired by an inmate at Fort Dix who had “ordered” tobacco products from Thomas.

Thomas admitted that he had arranged the transaction.

Gamache admitted that she then purchased two one-pound bags of tobacco, smuggled them into the prison and gave them to Thomas.

According to the original criminal Complaint, in early May 2006 Thomas told an inmate who was cooperating with federal law enforcement that Thomas and Gamache would sell the inmate two one-pound bags of tobacco. Federal law enforcement officers then wired the money to the Western Union as described above.

A few days after the above-referenced transaction, the cooperating inmate requested a cellular telephone and one bag of tobacco from Thomas. Thomas told him that it would cost him \$2,800. Federal law enforcement officers then wired the money to Gamache’s

husband. Thomas subsequently provided the cooperating inmate with a Virgin Mobile cell phone. Although acknowledging conspiring to smuggle cell phones into Fort Dix, neither Gamache nor Thomas admitted specific details about the cell phone transactions today.

Christie credited Special Agents of the Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Inspector General Glenn A. Fine, and Special Agent in Charge James E. Tomlinson, with the investigation that led to today's charges. The investigation was also assisted by investigators from the Federal Correctional Institution at Fort Dix, under the direction of Warden Charles Samuels.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard E. Constable, III of the U.S. Attorney's Office Special Prosecution's Division in Newark.

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